AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the second paragraph of page 7 of the specification as follows:

It is an advantage of the present invention to facilitate the embodiment of sequence number generation in a wide variety of hardware and/or firmware implementations. By way of example and without limitation, the sequence numbering in the node system of FIGURE 1 may be implemented by adapter cards located at nodes A, B, and C. The implementation of the present invention is not limited to adapter cards. For example, the present invention may [[by]] be implemented in host/appliance software, firmware, ASICs, fabric elements (e.g. augmenting a switch implementation) or any combination thereof. It shall be appreciated that any further discussion of adapter cards or firmware refers broadly to all of the preceding implementations.